

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parentheses, underlined text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

1. (Currently Amended) A natural evaporation type humidifier, comprising:
[[a]] the humidify element of claim 20 which is absorptive; and
a case which is free to open and close having an inner space where said humidifying element is stored.
2. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein said humidify element deforms and extends when said case is opened.
3. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein the position of said humidify element changes when said case is opened.
4. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein said humidify element is free to attach to and detach from said case.
5. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at said humidify element.

6. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 5, wherein said slit or said notch is wave-shaped.

7. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein said inner space is a liquid reservoir to store liquid for moistening said humidify element.

8. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 7, wherein said humidify element comprises a plurality of humidify segments which are connected by a connect portion, and wherein a part of every humidify segment is soaked in the liquid in said liquid reservoir.

9. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 8, wherein said connect portion to connect said plurality of humidify segments are a plurality of fold portions, and said plurality of humidify segments are bellows-shaped by folding said plurality of fold portions.

10. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 9, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at the position of said fold portion of said humidify element.

11. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 10, wherein said slit or said notch is wave-shaped.

12. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1,

wherein said case comprises a first case portion having a first open retaining engage means and a second case portion having a second open retaining engage means to engage with said first open retaining engage means, and

wherein said first case portion and said second case portion are fixed by engaging said first open retaining engage means and said second open retaining engage means, when said first case portion and said second case portion are opened.

13. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1,

wherein said case comprises a first case portion and a second case portion, and said inner space for storing said humidify element is formed at both said first case portion and said second case portion, and

wherein one end of said humidify element is fixed being free to attach to and detach from said first case portion, and the other end of said humidify element is fixed being free to attach to and detach from said second case portion.

14. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 13 having two of said humidify elements,

wherein one end of one humidify element is fixed to said first case portion, and one end of the other humidify element is fixed to said second case portion, and

wherein the other ends of said humidify elements which are not fixed to said case are connected by a deformable connect member.

15. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1,

wherein said case comprises a first case portion and a second case portion, and one end of said humidify element is attached to said first case portion, and the other end is attached to said second case portion, and

wherein a water receive portion is disposed as a liquid reservoir made of water-repellant material being free to extend and contract, as one end is attached to said first case portion and the other end is attached to said second case portion.

16. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 15, wherein said humidify element is free to attach to and detach from said first case portion and said second case portion.

17. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 15, wherein said water receive portion is free to attach to and detach from said first case portion and said second case portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein a second locating means is formed in said case to engage with said humidify element, and a first locating means is formed at said humidify element to engage with said second locating means.

19. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, comprising a blower at the vicinity of said humidify element, wherein said humidify element receives the wind from said blower.
20. (Previously Presented) A humidify element comprising a plurality of humidify segments by folding a sheet-shaped absorptive member.
21. (Previously Presented) The humidify element according to claim 20, wherein said plurality of humidify segments are displaced having the folding position as a boundary.
22. (Previously Presented) The humidify element according to claim 20, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at said humidify segment.
23. (Previously Presented) The humidify element according to claim 20, wherein a center fold portion along which said sheet-shaped member is folded into two is formed as a zigzag shape.
24. (Previously Presented) The humidify element according to claim 23, wherein a slit is formed along said center fold portion.
25. (Previously Presented) The humidify element according to claim 23, comprising a plurality of humidify segments defined by said center fold portion and a plurality of sectional fold portions, wherein the member folded into two along said center fold

portion is folded approximately perpendicular to said center fold portion at said plurality of sectional fold portions into a bellows shape.

26. (Previously Presented) The humidify element according to claim 25, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at said sectional fold portion.

27. (Previously Presented) The humidify element according to claim 26, wherein said slit or said notch is wave-shaped.

28. (Previously Presented) The humidify element according to claim 25, wherein the folding direction changes every time said center fold portion crosses said sectional fold portion.

29. (Previously Presented) The humidify element according to claim 25, comprising:
a connect segment which connects to at least one humidify segment for binding up one end of all said plurality of humidify segments;
a first engage means which is formed at said connect segment; and
a second engage means which is formed at least at one humidify segment for engaging with said first engage means.

30. (Previously Presented) The humidify element according to claim 29, wherein said first engage means is one of an insert segment and a slit, and said second engage means is the other of an insert segment and a slit.

31. (Previously Presented) A humidify element comprising a plurality of absorptive humidify segments which one end is connected by a connect portion.

32. (Previously Presented) The humidify element according to claim 31, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at said humidify segment.

33. (Previously Presented) The humidify element according to claim 32, wherein said slit or said notch is wave-shaped.

34. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The natural evaporation type humidifier [[case]] according to claim 1, wherein the case includes comprising:

~~an inner space to which a humidify element is stored; and~~

a link portion to which said humidify element is fixed being free to attach and detach.

35. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 34, comprising a first case portion and second case portion;

wherein said link portion is formed at least at either said first case portion or said second case portion, being an arm portion to sandwich a part of said humidify element by forming a gap with an inner wall of said case portion.

36. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 35, comprising:

a first closure retaining engage means which is disposed at said first case portion to retain a state that said case is closed; and

a second closure retaining engage means which is disposed at said second case portion to engage with said first closure retaining engage means.

37. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 36,

wherein said first closure retaining engage means is a deform member which is displaced by external force, and said second closure retaining means is a projection which is disposed at a cover, and

wherein said projection links with and unlinks from said deform member in accordance with the displacement of said deform member.

38. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 35, comprising:

a first open retaining engage means which is disposed at said first case portion to retain a state that said case is opened; and

a second open retaining engage means which is disposed at said second case portion to engage with said first open retaining engage means.

39. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 35,

wherein one of said first case portion and said second case portion is a reservoir which has said inner space, and the other is a cover to open and close the opening portion of said reservoir, and

wherein a liquid discharge gap for connecting said inner space with outside is formed at said reservoir.

40. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 35,

wherein one of said first case portion and said second case portion is a reservoir which has said inner space, and the other is a cover to open and close the opening portion of said reservoir, and

wherein a retain means for retaining said humidify element is formed in said reservoir.

41. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 35,

wherein one of said first case portion and said second case portion is a reservoir which has said inner space, and the other is a cover to open and close the opening portion of said reservoir, and

wherein a locating means for engaging with said humidify element is formed in said reservoir.

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